

## MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 10, 2009 - MINUTES

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**In attendance:** Council Members: Jacob Wagner, Tom Peluso, Kathy Berg, Jerry Johnson, Shelly Johnson, Sally Miller, Jan Bjork, John Watson, Lori Marchak, Vickie Groeneweg, Eric Bryson and Betsy Garrigues; Advocacy Members: Scott Malloy (Mental Health Center), Dennis Cox (AMDD), Andrea Lower (Court Services), Jana Lehman (Mental Health America of Montana) and Shelly Heilweil. Guests: Adina Smith (MSU-HDC), Marty Kent (Bozeman PD), Gerry Higgins, and Pierre Martineau (West Yellowstone); and Staff: Glenda Howze.

**Call to Order and Introductions** - 12:05 PM.

**Public Comment** - Ms. Miller reported that the VA is having its annual meeting regarding serious mental illness soon. She will be in attendance and if anyone has anything they'd like to pass on to the group they are welcome to communicate this to Ms. Miller prior to September 1.

**Drop In Center Update** - Mr. Watson stated that the last year has blown everyone away. They have averaged 350 people (visits) per month and are just short of 5,000 visits for the year. They are averaging 34 co-occurring clients a month and 3.3 homeless visits. They continue to be swamped. One part time person has left and they looking to fill it. The position has to be filled by a consumer.

**Approval of Minutes** - Mr. Peluso made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Bjork seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Letter of Support for the Mental Health Center's Application to the Recovery from Mental Illness Grant through AMDD** - Mr. Malloy presented the Recovery from Mental Illness Grant. The State found some money, \$400,000 for two years (\$800,000) total. Applications are due on September 9. The RFP is the same one that was put out two years ago. The Mental Health Center (MHC) staff did some brainstorming and came up with some ideas. Given their limited capability to take on any new programs, they decided apply for funds that would be used to build on the Drop-In Center given its success and the huge need for this service in the community. Mr. Peluso stated that when they made the initial request for a grant for the Drop-In Center there was not enough money to full support the center. This grant could remedy that situation. Mr. Malloy stated that they have been very overwhelmed with the success of the center. Based on surveys from visitors there is a great desire for expanded the hours. Many would like to have Sunday hours and extended hours in the evenings. Mr. Watson stated that the staff needs more training as well. Ms. Marchak stated that she appreciates the MHC improving on an existing program rather than trying to take on something new at this point.

Mr. Malloy presented a project overview along with a list of ideas that the MHC staff suggested. The grant use has to be recovery focused and has to include peers. Mr. Cox stated that it is fairly flexible and that his initial impression is that it is what AMDD is looking for. Mr. Peluso made a motion that the LAC support the Recovery Grant as submitted by the Gallatin Mental Health Center. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Cox clarified that a representative from the Service Area Authorities will assist in reviewing the grants and each proposal will be reviewed and evaluated on its own merit. Mr. Watson stated that of the ideas listed, the WRAP area is most important in his mind. He stated that there needs to be WRAP facilitation in Gallatin

County. Ms. Miller stated that she has been talking to people about bringing WRAP training to Gallatin County. Vote: All voted aye; Mr. Watson abstained given the potential conflict of interest. The motion passed.

**Distribution of Mental Health Resource Guide** – Ms. Howze stated that all of the Resource Guides have been compiled in bunches and are ready for distribution if anyone is able to help with deliveries; requested that those able to assist with the distribution stop after the meeting to pick up packets and directions.

**Discussion and Setting of Actions Items for HB 130 Requirements** – Ms. Lower presented the matter, noting that there is a deadline for submitting letters of intent to apply for the grant monies by August 30. She noted that we need to look at how to coordinate this grant if it is going to be submitted. Mr. Peluso commented that the money might be able to offset some of the construction that we have underway. Ms. Lower offered for the grant to go through Court Services as it has to be funneled through a County Department. Mr. Bryson stated that they already have the grant written and it was previously presented to the LAC when it was submitted for a different grant. It could easily be modified and used for this submittal. Mr. Peluso asked if the grant could be made available on-line. It is quite lengthy but could possibly be made available electronically. This money cannot be used to supplant but will be an expansion of the services listed as acceptable in the grant documentation. Mr. Peluso made a motion that the LAC recommend to the County Commission that it submit a letter of intent to the State Department of Public Health and Human Services, pursuant to the August 4 letter, noting that Gallatin County does intend to submit a request for grant monies. Ms. Marchak seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Howze noted that the Commissioners will be discussing this item with the County Attorney at a meeting on Monday August 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bryson offered to attend that meeting and explain the wishes of the LAC. Mr. Peluso made a motion that the LAC recommend to the County Commission that they appoint Court Services to apply and administer the grant. Mr. Watson seconded the motion. All voted aye; Mr. Bryson abstained given the potential for conflict of interest. Chairman Wagner officially appointed Mr. Eric Bryson as the LAC's representative to talk to the Commission and County Attorney regarding this grant on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Agency Reports including Campus Update** – Campus Update: Mr. Peluso stated that on the construction end, they will be received bids this week for two larger buildings. The Hope House foundation, rough carpentry, and roof rafters are all up and they should start sheeting this week. The Dorothy Eck House is "out of the ground" and is progressing well. There have been a few permitting hitches but they are being worked out. Chairman Wagner took this opportunity to express his appreciation for having Eric Bryson, City Commissioner, on the Council as well as Marty Kent from the Police Department. Co-Occurring: Ms. Johnson just returned from a conference in Tuscon that had a great outcome. Mr. Peluso stated that he heard at a recent NAMI meeting that there is the perception that the co-occurring imitative is not working. The success and importance of co-occurring programs needs to be communicated to folks. He suggested that perhaps there should be a meeting with NAMI President Gary Popiel. Mr. Cox noted that one of the roles of the LAC is to educate. Perhaps this perception is a lack of information getting to the appropriate agencies. Ms. Johnson stated that many agencies are using a co-occurring model and perhaps there just needs to be more updating done. Ms. Marchak asked if there was data available on the success of these programs. Mr. Cox and Ms. Johnson stated that they don't have numbers readily available that indicate the success. Mr. Cox stated that eventually they will have them, but not at this point. Mr. Malloy stated that there are recovery markers available, however. Alcohol and Drug Services of Gallatin County has two recovery houses in Bozeman that offer services for those with co-occurring issues. One serves eight men, the other serves seven women. Mr. Wagner asked how many would have criminal justice contacts if they were not in these programs and Ms. Johnson stated most if not all. West Yellowstone Services: Mr. Malloy stated that he continues to work on getting a contract in place for someone to begin working in West on September 1. There is some uncertainty

about the Gilhousen grant and whether it will be continued. This money funds the Human Development Clinic intern. The plan at this point is for the intern to continue to work in West until such time as there is not funding available. The group working on this matter is also waiting for the Town of West Yellowstone to step up and contribute both financially and to work on a needs assessment for the community. Ms. Smith stated that they are also waiting for transportation statistics from the Town. She may write a grant to the foundation that supports the twice weekly bus to Bozeman to pay for transportation of someone from the Clinic to go to West. The group will meet again in September once the summer vacations are done. Mr. Malloy noted that they had an interesting Town Hall discussion in West. Some people want someone local to provide the services and others don't want the person they talk to or receive medical services from to be local. Mr. Peluso stated that four or five years ago an advocacy group from NAMI was working on the idea of a Mental Health Foundation. There are sources of funds in the community that could be tapped to assist with this type of thing (the West Yellowstone services). The idea of starting a foundation will be put on the next available agenda for further discussion and possible decision. Mr. Bryson noted that the Board of Health has money available for "community needs" projects. He stated that to his knowledge this money has not been tapped into and no request has come to the Board of Health for the project as discussed today.

Ms. Johnson offered a co-occurring initiative training/presentation in conjunction with Mr. Cox. This item will be the total agenda for the October meeting. Mr. Popeil will be invited to attend.

**Agenda for September Meeting** - Mental Health Foundation discussion; Homeless Outreach Agent Sunny Rae; other.

**Meeting adjourned** at 1:00 PM